Roxbury, May 2, 1870.

Hon. Henry Wilson:

My Dear Friend — I send back your manuscript, which I have both needlessly & unintentionally retained too long; for I carefully examined it without delay after it came to hand, & meant to have promptly forwarded it.

You will see where I have used my pencil, though the corrections are few & trifling. I have put down the date of my birth as given in the town records of Newburyport, which I had not examined until within the last three years. I had always supposed that I was born Dec. 10, 1804, but the town records make my advent Dec. 12 of that year — two days later. In one or two instances, elsewhere, I have been erroneously assigned to the year 1805. I have no doubt that Dec. 10, instead of 12, is the correct date; but it is not

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worth while to contest the records aforesaid.

There is a discrepancy to be found in certain statements on pages 28 3/4 & 29 1/8, which it may be well to obviate. On the former page you say, "It was not that Mr. Garrison discovered any new truths, or that he enunciated them with any peculiar force," &c. On the latter page you say, "The very boldness & audacity of the young man in his attic, telling the nation that he was in earnest & would be heard, aroused attention." It is a delicate matter for me to make any reference to myself in such a connection; but I may express to you my conviction, that it was because I enunciated & applied old truths with "peculiar force", and in a thoroughly impartial manner as pertaining to sects, parties, public men, occupants of pulpits, schools of theology, laws, constitutions, and whatever else

arrayed itself against the emancipation of those in bondage, that such an awakening followed my efforts. Had I compromised my principles, I should have lost "the staff of accomplishment."

I do not think you do entire justice to the "Garrisonian abolitionists," so called; for if they had been supplanted or driven from the field, what would have become of the anti-slavery movement? Assuredly, a collapse would have followed more disastrous than that which followed the Missouri struggle in 1820, and neither a Giddings nor a Sumner, neither a Wilson nor a Julian, would have been seen as political representatives of the movement in the Congress of the United States. How describe the "Garrisonians" as arraying them-

selves against the leading in-
fluences of Church and State,
(p. 25,) because they did "not
find that hearty co-operation
and ready acquiescence in
the utterances and modes of
of action of Church and State
which they desired or hoped for."
You will frankly allow me to say
that the words which I have itali-
cized are precisely the wrong ones to use,
& are at variance with the facts in
the case. We not only did not find "hearty
co-operation & ready acquiescence" on
the part of Church and State, but, on
the contrary, the most determined hos-
tility and relentless persecution. We
were simply true to our cause and
our principles, "without concealment
and without compromise." That credit
is due to us in any and every history
of the anti-slavery conflict.

What if our course appeared to our countrymen a "practical solecism"; (p. 25,) in the matter of reforming the Government and the church by coming out from them for Conscience' sake? It was consistent moral action and practical wisdom in the sequel.

It is singular that, in referring to the separation which took place in the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1840, you omit to state the precise reason for that separation which was given at the time. It was because a woman — Abby Kelley — was placed on the Business Committee by Francis Jackson as President pro tem.! No other issue was raised, not other grievances alleged, by the schismatics, made up largely of the clerical fraternity. The vote was taken by yeas & nays, & resulted — Ayes 557 in favor, & 451 against the election. Majority 106. The minority was manufactured by scores in the city of New York,

a few days before the annual meeting, & of those who had never done anything for the anti-slavery cause, solely to prevent women speaking & acting in the meeting.- Finding they were largely outvoted, they withdrew, & immediately proceeded to organize what they styled "the American & Foreign Anti-Slavery Society," for the avowed purpose of "crushing out" the old pioneer society. This new organization never put an agent into the field, never published a tract for circulation against slavery, never reported aught of its receipts & expenditures, & merely held a single meeting in New York anniversary week, for a few successive years, as a matter of form, with nothing whatever to report of its own doings. In justice, state on what ground the division took place in 1840; and, as you are a woman's rights man, give the American Anti-Slavery Society — otherwise the "Garrisonian abolitionists" — the credit so eminently due

to them for refusing to gag or proscribe women in the struggle to let the oppressed go free!

You proceed to disparage us in point of numbers, (pp. 26 & 27,) & represent us as making no proselytes, but rather growing "small by degrees," if not "beautifully less." My dear friend, I do not understand your motive in doing this. Certainly, it is not history, but "Hamlet out of the play." The truth is, that, after the division alluded to, the seceders almost wholly ceased to say or do anything against slavery or its abettors, but occupied their time & attention in misrepresenting & reviling the old abolitionists as "infidels," "disorganizers," "no government persons," "women's rights advocates," &c., &c., & became the worst enemies our cause had to contend with. On our part, we continued to deal with slavery & those who shielded it with the same earnestness & fidelity as from the beginning, & were far more potential to the end of the conflict than ever before. We ceased to count our

numbers, caring little for them in the abstract, yet making converts continually in every part of the Free States, until it became possible, through the moral regeneration effected by "the foolishness of preaching," to elect Abraham Lincoln President of the United States by a vote of nearly two millions." Joshua R. Giddings used to say, with his characteristic frankness, that while the old abolitionists in his District beat the bush, he caught the birds. It was cause & effect.

Far be it from me to underrate the political action which has signalized the anti-slavery movement; but without the preceding moral conflict with the hearts & consciences of the people, assuredly no such action had been possible. The greater includes the less.

I know that you will not only pardon me for making these points, but thank me for doing so, — reserving to Yourself the right to approve or dissent as you may think proper.

If I can serve You in any way in the further preparation of Your Anti-Slavery History, I shall be happy to do so.

Yours, with warm regards,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

MS. A.1.1 v. 88, p. 114 B